

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

5:30 p.m. – School Report Night

7:00 p.m. - Regular School Committee Meeting

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma, Vice-Chairman

Liana Fenton

Paul Mankofsky

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:10

p.m. by Chairman Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members present were Gail Abromitis, Stephen Ponte, Michelle Fonseca, Michael Mancieri, and Linda Beaupre.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To move “Proclamations” up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Student Awards** – Two students were recognized for being named “Newport Daily News Student of the Week”.
- Retirees Recognition**
- USDA Healthier U.S. Schools Award** – Aquidneck and Forest Avenue Schools were awarded Bronze Awards from the USDA Healthier U.S. Schools Award Challenge. Only 6% of schools in the country receive the award.

Safety Town for incoming Kindergarten students will be held from August 13-16 at Aquidneck School. This program is supported by 36 local businesses. Topics discussed include fire safety, bike safety, crime prevention, stranger danger, bus safety, water safety, and pet safety.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Sea Perch”

Mr. Bill Ferreira discussed the “Sea Perch” Undersea Technology Apprentice Program 2013. This program is funded by the Van Buren Foundation. Retired engineers

(Minutes of May 16, 2013 School Committee Meeting, Page Two)

and scientists assist the students. This gives the students an idea of what type of work an engineer does. There is no cost to the district. Students receive a stipend to participate in the program. This summer, one of our teachers will be a mentor.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

•Senior Class Officers and Advisors – Zoe S. and Sarah B. represented the Senior Class and discussed the senior activities. There are 176 students in the senior class. Activities include the senior picnic, senior prom, class night and graduation rehearsal.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Doodle for Google winner.**
- Donation letters**
- The Wave**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for May 16, 2013.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Mankofsky requested that administration look into firearms safety for starter guns that are stored in Athletic Director’s closet.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2013 Executive Session and School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of the following vouchers:**

Vouchers 4/13/2013 to 5/6/2013

Voucher Number Date Total

1353 4/23/2013 \$190,732.49

1352 4/23/2013 \$350.00

1357 4/24/2013 \$87,019.90

1356 4/24/2013 \$10,798.50

1355 4/24/2013 \$110.00

1354 4/24/2013 \$1,281.00

1358 4/25/2013 \$408.00

1371 4/30/2013 \$22,182.00

1365 4/30/2013 \$2,531.62

1368 5/1/2013 \$1,110.00

1367 5/1/2013 \$661.83

1366 5/1/2013 \$15,179.18

1370 5/2/2013 \$1,102.00

1369 5/2/2013 \$171,515.70

\$504,982.22

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT AS OF MAY 10, 2013

Michael Goodreau

Student Activities Coordinator, Middletown High School

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

Dane E. Ramey

Spanish Teacher, Middletown High School

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

ARTICLE XIV, C OPTION #1

Kimberly Pearce Grade Three, Aquidneck School

From approximately May 13, 2013 to the first day of school (for students) of the 2013-2014 School Year, using 33 sick days.

MEDICAL LEAVE

Marie Eckler

Kindergarten, Aquidneck School

From May 20, 2013 to the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

ACTION ITEMS

TUITION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the tuition rate for school year 2013-2014. Unanimous vote.

ANNUAL RATE

2009-2010 2010-2011 2011-2012 2012-2013 2013-2014

Elementary \$11,800 \$12,154 \$12,154 \$12,154 \$12,154

Middle School 13,900 14,317 14,317 14,317 14,317

High School 14,000 14,420 14,420 14,420 14,420

Special Education 37,500 38,625 38,625 38,625 38,625

(Minutes of May 16, 2013 School Committee Meeting, Page Four)

BUS CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Ferreira. That the School Committee extend the current school bus contract with Ocean State Transit to June, 2020.

Yay – Theresa Spengler Nay – William O’Connell

Kellie DiPalma Paul Mankofsky

Liana Fenton

Mr. Mankofsky objects to the extension because, 1) the current contract doesn’t expire for 2 years, 2) there is no provision for an extension, 3) the Town policy is to compete for bids, and 4) the financial analysis was insufficient. He would like the school attorney to review.

Middletown submits a waiver to the R.I. Department of Education to verify that our pricing is below the State bid. To lock in a 2% increase is quite favorable. Other districts are coming in at 2 ½ to 3%. Mrs.

Spengler supports the contract extension and feels that locking in at this rate is a good idea. Ocean State provides clean, well maintained busses.

Miss DiPalma said that the longer we wait, the more it will cost, but would like to see if we are violating any Town policy.

LIGHTING BID

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the Gaudet Turf Field Light Project Bid to E.W. Audet. Unanimous vote.

Salve Regina University is paying for half the project.

PA SYSTEMS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the installation of intercom systems at Aquidneck School and Forest Avenue School. Unanimous vote.

This is a formality because the Town already approved the allocation of \$93,000 at their May 6th meeting. The School Committee needs to approve this because the budget needs to be adjusted.

EARLY RETIREMENT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to reopen Certified Early

Retirement through July 1, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

***Key Communicators Program – The first meeting will be held on May 20th. Thirty community members have been invited. The response has been positive.**

(Minutes of May 16, 2013 School Committee Meeting, Page Five)

- Safety Update – Three sets of focus group questions were submitted; staff, parents, and students.**
- Shared Services – Mrs. Kraeger has had discussion with Newport regarding shared services. They would like two members of the Middletown School Committee to meet with two members of the Newport School Committee to discuss this.**
- Sailing Club – The insurance information has been received and approved by the school department legal department. The team placed 4th in the State.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Private School Books – Middletown residents attending private**

schools receive certain books free of charge. We are currently attempting to combine with Bristol-Warren to share inventory. Portsmouth will be on board in a year, as well as Little Compton.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – The K-12 Social Studies Curriculum was completed today. The School Committee will be asked to approve the curriculum at an upcoming meeting. There is currently work to overlap the K-8 Social Studies Curriculum with the ELA Curriculum. The ACCESS for English Language Learners test results were released.

•FINANCIAL – School lunch figures were released. Ending the month of April there was a \$3,008.70 profit. The Town has appropriated \$93,000 for PA systems so the June budget will reflect that in the year-to-date budget report. The Funding Formula has been released. There was a gain of \$12,154, or \$12,154 less of a reduction. There has been no change in free/reduced lunch.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

There was discussion regarding how to reduce the budget. Mrs.

Spengler said we need to wait until we receive all the data and the bottom line from the Town. When budget is submitted on May 29th, we will have 30 days to make adjustments. Mrs. Kraeger will give recommendations and the School Committee will chose which items to reduce.

MOTION: 1) Paul Mankofsky, 2) William O'Connell. To direct the Superintendent to give the School Committee a list of budget cuts by Sunday night. Motion Failed.

**Yay – Paul Mankofsky Nay – Theresa Spengler
William O'Connell Kellie DiPalma
Liana Fenton**

(Minutes of May 16, 2013 School Committee Meeting, Page Six)

Mr. Mankofsky inquired about making the Financial Report public. Ms. Pellerin said that RIDE is asking for towns to hold off until they decide at what level districts can release information. They want all districts to standardize what is sent out to public in a consistent format.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Miss DiPalma, Mrs. Fenton, and Mrs. Spengler attended the Annual RIASC Meeting. The focus is on getting mayors and municipal elected officials to support education in the community.

Mrs. Fenton attended a STEM conference at Rhode Island College. There was discussion about businesses and education and how we can help each other with students being able to get a career pathway that the businesses need.

Miss DiPalma attended a Newport County Coop Group meeting. The focus is to encourage other businesses in areas to develop programs with high school students.

Mr. O'Connell attended the Middletown High School drama club presentation.

SAVE THE DATE – The annual art exhibit will be at the CCRI Newport Campus from May 22nd to May 24th from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the

School Committee Meeting at 9:38 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk